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ANTI-SEMITISM AND SOVIET POLICY

[Comment: The following report consists of information taken from two articles by Dr J. Melkman, chief editor of the Amsterdam Zionist weekly Nieuw Israelietisch Weekblad, which appeared on the front pages of that paper on 23 and 30 January 1953.

Melkman defines various phases of international Communist policy in relation to the recent anti-Semitic manifestations within the Soviet orbit. Among other things, Melkman expresses the view that leading Kremlin circles do not regard the Jews as a threat and will possibly soon be looking for another scapegoat. He adds, however, that political Zionism is definitely considered a danger to the internal power of the Communist Party.]

Communist and non-Communist sources have recently published a great deal about the new trends in Communist policy. Nevertheless, the motives and aims of the Soviet leaders have not been clearly defined. Jews in the Diaspora will be interested to find out what goes on behind the Iron Curtain and to what extent Soviet policy affects the Jews of the world now and, perhaps, in the future.

Communism Is Anti-Zionist

Anti-Zionism is nothing new in the USSR. In past years many Zionists were placed in Soviet prisons and shipped to Siberia because they had remained true to Zionist ideology. Only in 1947 did the anti-Zionist policy of the Communists, which paralleled their support of the Arabs, suddenly revert after a change of attitude demonstrated by the Soviet delegation in the United Nations. Then the USSR regarded the Zionist movement as justifiable, and encouraged the establishment of the Jewish State. The USSR believed that the establishment of Israel

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could create discord between the US and Britain, but when the expected discord did not materialize, it was not surprising that the Communists returned to their former anti-Zionist policy.

However, closer examination indicates that there is a big difference between the old and the new Soviet anti-Zionism, primarily because the right of the Jews to have their own state in Israel can no longer be denied.

Communism Is Not Pro-Arab

Recently the USSR has not maintained a pro-Arab policy. Not only did the USSR not support the Arab states in the United Nations, but also she did not offer loans or any other support to the Arabs. Even during the Prague trials the Communists did not exploit Israeli-Arab differences to curry favor with the Arab states. However, it is possible that, in the future, the Communist anti-Zionist campaign will exploit the Israeli-Arab struggle.

Communism Is Not Pro-German

Recently the Communists have made no attempts to gain the favor of the Germans. In fact, they even accused those indicted in the Prague trial of being connected with the neo-Nazis. Certainly, if the Communists wanted to win over the West Germans, they would have acted differently; for instance, they could have found an excuse for the increasing anti-Semitism in West Germany by accusing the Jews of wanting to take revenge on the German people. Furthermore, the Communists propagandized against the reparations agreement between Israel and the German Federal Republic.

Communists Use Jews as Scapegoats

The recent anti-Semitic attacks indicate that the Kremlin leaders are using the Jews as scapegoats. The Jews are merely being blamed for the bad economic conditions in the Communist countries and are being held out to the masses to satisfy their anger. It is obvious that the leading Kremlin circles themselves do not regard the Jews as a threat to the USSR, and it is quite possible that they will soon be looking for another scapegoat.

Trotskyism - Titoism - Zionism

It is also possible that the recent attacks on the Jews are part of the struggle for power over Stalin's successor. It could be that Beriya is no longer favored and that Malenkov wants him out of the way. However, foreign diplomats in Moscow do not agree that this struggle for power is the primary reason for Moscow's recent anti-Semitic activities. Whatever reason there may be for these recent Soviet anti-Semitic activities, the fact remains that Soviet propaganda has added a new slogan to Trotskyism and Titoism, i.e., Zionism.

The recent Soviet anti-Zionist accusations leave no doubt that, in addition to Trotskyism and Titoism, the Communists consider Zionism a danger to the internal power of the Communist Party. The Soviets believe and fear that the Zionist movement will not stop with the establishment and maintenance of Israel but will spread to Communist countries and the Communist Party.

The Kremlin leaders realize that the Jews are kept together by an invisible hand and feel united with those Jews who live elsewhere under an entirely different regime. The Soviets also know that Jewish nationalism in the USSR is not dead despite 30 years of Communist rule which has prohibited any Jewish activities. This Jewish nationalism was clearly shown when in 1948, after the establishment of Israel, 10,000 Jews gathered in the streets of Moscow to watch the representatives of the Jewish State enter the Synagogue on a Jewish holiday. At the same

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time, dozens of Jews wrote letters to Stalin asking for permission to join their families in Israel. The Communists find this feeling of Jewish class distinction clearly symbolized in the word Zionism, which they believe constitutes a danger to the Soviet regime.

Communists Accuse Prominent Jews

The Prague trials and the accusations of the Jewish doctors in Moscow have shown that the Communists practice their anti-Semitic propaganda primarily on prominent Jews. It is the intention of the Soviets to make the people realize that behind a professed Jewish Communist in high office or one with an honorable profession is hidden the shrewdness of a Jew, and thus to make the Soviet people suspicious of any Jew.

Warning to Jewish Communists

Communist Jews in leading positions should realize that the Communists will not leave them in these positions. History has shown that there is no room for any Jew in a dictatorial regime.

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